

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E. O1. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECOM, AR

SUBJ: VILLA CONSTITUCION STRIKE

REF: BA 2910

SUMMARY: VILLA CONSTITUCION STRIKE IN 47TH DAY WITH STILL NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT. STRUCK PLANT SEEKING TO REPLACE STRIKING WORKERS, WHICH COULD EXACERBATE SITUATION. SMATA AFFIRMS THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT AUTOMOBILE PLANTS TO SHUT DOWN EVEN IF WORKERS HAVE TO SEIZE AND OPERATE THEM THEMSELVES. STRIKERS ARE RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID FROM NON-PERONIST LABOR AND POLITICAL ENTITIES, AND MORAL SUPPORT FROM UCR AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS BY MINLABOR OFFICIALS, AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF 47 DAY OLD METAL WORKERS STRIKE IN VILLA CONSTITUCION APPEARS PROBLEMATIC. IN OBVIOUSLY CONCILIATORY GESTURE GOA RELEASED 12 OF THE 40-PLUS IMPRISONED LABOR LEADERS ON MAY 1, BUT NONE OF THE MAJOR VILLA CONSTITUCION UOM LEADERS WERE AMONG THOSE. WORKERS ADAMANT THEY WILL NOT RETURN TO WORK UNTIL ALL LEADERS ARE RELEASED. THEY ARE APPARENTLY RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID FROM THE JTP, LEFTIST UNIONS, AND POSSIBLY THE MONTONEROS, SO THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE STAYING POWER. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
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FOR THE STRIKERS CAME FROM THE RADICAL PARTY NATIONAL COMMI-

TTEE WHICH INCLUDED AMONG ITS MAY 3 RESOLUTIONS A CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE ARRESTED LEADERS, THE ENDING OF THE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL UNION, AND THE RESTORATION OF THE ELECTED UNION LEADERS.

2. IN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED WEEK OF APRIL 28 NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION (SMATA) STATED IT WOULD NOT PERMIT AUTOMOBILE PLANTS TO CLOSE SHOP, AND IF NECESSARY WOULD SEIZE AND OPERATE THEM ITSELF. MINLABOR OTERO PRAISED UNION FOR "SUCH CONSTRUCTIVE OUTLOOK". IN WHAT COULD BE POTENTIALLY HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE DECISION, STRUCK PLANT METCON ADVERTISED FOR NEW OPERATORS IN MAY 5 PRESS. AS STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL, PLANTS CAN REPLACE STRIKERS BUT HAVE THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM DOING SO. ONE NEWS COMMENTATOR OBSERVED THAT THE REPLACEMENT OF THE STRIKERS "WOULD OPEN A SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROCESS OF UNFORESEEN POSSIBILITIES, MUCH GRAVER THAN THAT WHICH NOW ENVELOPS THE CITY".

COMMENT: THE AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERES' EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THAT INDUSTRY WOULD BE FORCED TO SHUT DOWN WITHIN ONE MONTHS TIME WERE OBVIOUSLY EXAGGERATED AS THEY ARE STILL MANAGING TO OPERATE ALTHOUGH AT A REDUCED RHYTHM. HOWEVER, INDEFINITE OPERATION UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE GOA GRANTED SPECIAL IMPORT PERMITS FOR CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN SHORT SUPPLY BECAUSE OF METAL WORKERS STRIKE, AND MAY FIND IT NECESSARY TO EXTEND SUCH PERMITS TO AUTOMOTIVE PARTS IF STRIKE CONTINUES. EXCEPTING TOA CAPITULATION, PROSPECTS FOR A RETURN T LABOR PEACE IN VILLA CONSTITUCION ARE NOT GOOD. NOT ONLY THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS SUFFERING FOR THE STILL UNEXPLAINED, MININTERIOR ROCAMORA DENOUNCED "VAST SUBVERSIVE PLOT" WHICH SET OFF THIS LABOR CONFLICT. PLENUM OF UCR NATIONAL COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT GOA HAS NEVER PRESENTED ANY EVIDENCE TO BACK UP ITS CHARGES OF A "VAST PLOT TO PARALYZE HEAVY INDUSTRY", BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT GOVERNMENTS OWN MEASURES HAD SUCCEEDED IN DOING WHAT PROBABLY NO PLOT COULD HAVE DONE, I.E., PARALYZE HEAVY INDUSTRY.
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